

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057388

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, CO

SUBJECT:POLICY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW (PARM) -
COUNTRY SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR COLOMBIA

REFS: STATE 38338, STATE 38356, STATE 4546L

1. DURING FY 1979 A NEW COLOMBIAN ADMINISTRATION WILL BE
IN OFFICE, FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST
HALF OF 1978. WE DO NOT ENVISION ANY GREAT CHANGES IN
COLOMBIA'S FOREIGN POLICY OR THE GOC'S PERCEPTION OF ITS
INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES. AT THE SAME TIME,
IT APPEARS THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE IN
SESSION, CONSIDERING, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, MUCH NEEDED
REFORMS IN THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM. MANY OF COLOM-
BIA'S OBJECTIVES AND PROBLEMS WHICH BEAR IMPORTANTLY ON
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US INTERESTS WILL PERSIST. AMONG THESE ARE: (A) COLOM-
BIA'S PUSH FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO THE US MARKET; (B)
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING; (C) INTERNAL SECURITY; AND (D) THE
SHORT-COMINGS OF THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, PARTICU-
LARLY AS THEY RELATE TO IMPRISONED AMERICANS. YOU SHOULD
INCORPORATE SOME OF THIS SETTING, EXPANDED OR AMPLIFIED
AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, IN THE PARM.

2. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, THE SUMMARY OF LONG-TERM US

INTERESTS AND THE AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW IN THE FY 1977-78 CASP STILL PROVIDE A VALID POLICY ORIENTATION. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU DRAW ON THOSE SECTIONS OF THE CASP IN PREPARING PART I OF THE PARM.

3. AMONG US OBJECTIVES, WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED AND DESERVE PRIORITY ATTENTION: (A) NARCOTICS INTERDICTION; (B) HUMAN RIGHTS (I.E. MAINTAINING COLOMBIA'S GENERALLY GOOD RECORD, AND ENCOURAGING COLOMBIA TO BE HELPFUL WITH REGARD TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE); (C) FAIR TREATMENT FOR AMERICANS IN PRISON (PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO LONG PRE-TRIAL DETENTIONS); AND (D) POST-AID LINKS. SUGGESTED COURSES OF ACTION FOR THESE OBJECTIVES ARE PARTICULARLY SOLICITED.

4. WE ENVISAGE THE FOLLOWING AS POSSIBLE ISSUES: (A) THE NATURE AND SIZE OF OUR NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TRAFFIC, GOC ATTITUDES, THE PERVERSIVENESS OF CORRUPTION, AND GOC INEFFICIENCY; (B) HOW THE USG CAN PROMOTE BETTER TREATMENT FOR IMPRISONED AMERICANS; AND (C) WHETHER THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION MIGHT WARRANT CUT-BACKS IN PERSONNEL. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT RECOMMENDATIONS, ALTERNATIVES, AND DISSENTING VIEWS ARE SOLICITED.

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